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The Age News

Peter Lindsay 1/10/2010.

The Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

The Premier, of Q.L.D.

The Premier, N.S.W.

The Premier, V.I.C.

The Premier, S.A.

Anna Bligh

Hi my name is James Leslie Woods I am 73 years old, I grew up in the south west at Charleville,

And for many years I worked in that area, I was in the transport industry (Live stock & General goods)

We lived beside the Warrego River in Town / Below & above, I was there in November 1947 when we had the Big Hail Storm, which Deposited 2 feet + of hail on roofers and in the Streets. Bradley's Gully flooded the town the Mayor of Charleville at the time decided to clean out Bradley's Gully and put a spoon drain and mow the banks to keep it nice and tidy. In my opinion the Mayor started in the wrong place the middle of town. It should have been well below the Town, As usual the Public did not agree so he was voted out. Then the town had another Bradley's Gully flood. The incoming Mayor was going to rectify the problem they cleaned out more and extended the spoon drain. Like fools they went up stream this was great the flood water was able to get into the nice clean open area quicker creating a bigger flood. It stayed that way for many Years'.

We had many small floods in the Warrego River then in 1950-51 there was a very big wet all through the centre. As a result the Well-water Creek a very fast running Creek with the Borer Creek half way along entered the Well-water Creek was capable of flash flooding Charleville going 2-3 feet over the old bridges then the Yo-Yo River, Neive River joined the Warrego River. And there was the Ward River which Started around Tambo. The Langlo River run into

the Ward River and the Ward River Joins the Warrego River south of Charleville. In 1950-51 All these Rivers run a banker for over 12 months and as a results of the quantity/Volume of water it was very slow running and all the Silt settled along the Rivers. In late1951 when the Warrego River was only a trickle there was .8mt of black fine silt in the flat crossing below town. Then all the Undergrowth and weeds and over the years we had high floods with less rain, then all the flats where the over flow went all the young trees grew the following year more young trees and the same was repeated the following year. As a result in 1990 when the rain fell it came from the South and travelled all the way up the Warrego River and all the smaller streams,

The rain turned and went back south this put a large volume of water at Charleville. And with all the undergrowth the water could not get away and with the pressure of rising stream it actually forced the water to rise 2mt. Almost at right angle to the main stream cutting a 2.5 to3mt channel across to Bradleys Gully, And the force of the water when it hit Bradleys Gully just went straight across and up about 1.5mt through the Cemetery and over the Rail-Way line. On the North side or top end of the Town, At Pretty-Pines where we used to live. The water rosed about 3mt and went in a North West direction going through the house on .8mt stumps almost at table top depth up and over a sand hill to join into a small Creek. This is all because the Main stream of the Warrego River was clogged with silt from lots of previous small floods.

My family lived in this area from early 1940, and I lived and worked in the area till 1969. From 1955 to1967 while in the Transport Business my Travelles covered a space from Charleville to Brisbane, Carnarvon, Hughenden, Cloncurry, Winton, Quilpie, Windorah, Birdsville, The corner of Q.L.D. N.S.W. S.A. Borders, Bourke, Cobar, Riverina, Broken hill, Goondiwindi,. While driving through all these area

I could see the Rivers and Creeks clogging up. So in my opinion this is what should be done.

All States and the Shire's all along the river system must work together, And must start at the lower reaches of the river in their shire, This is how I see it should be done by excavating a very large water hole in the main channel wide and deep with the deepest point

right along the centre, the soil which is being removed could be placed right along the banks, Or placed in a “u” shape on the top side of any homestead or buildings. Then just clean out the centre of the main channel for some distance whatever is desired, then repeat the previous (large water hole). The Big Shire’s should have more than one team working. **This should be done the way the old tank sinker’s operated 24hrs round the clock with a canteen and portable sleeping quarters just like they do in the mines. I am putting on paper for all authorities to sit down and discuss with a open mind .**

But I am sure if you all open your both eyes and pause and think about how water easily be held up, Just look at our kerbing and channelling some residents clean and trim their section and the ones that do not the water will go right out into the middle of the road or across it.

Please think about it if all the rivers are cleaned out the water will flow faster and some silt will stop in the large water holes. There is a spot between Cunnamulla to the Darling River which is a flood plain. Why not make it easier to get the water over this area, this should be done wherever town & cities have problems, if it was left to Mother Nature as a river files up Mother Nature will make another course for her river to flow. Please remember Mother Nature will have her way and win.

And the water that causes all this Expense and heart aches to everyone will be reduced. And the water will again reach the Ocean in Victoria and help to restore the Murray/ Darling water system.

My late brother-in-law Mr Royan William Bignell tried to convince his fellow aldermen what was causing the floods.

I am willing to discuss and point out and give examples

Just think if you have 2litre container full of water then have another 2litre container with 5kg of soil in it then try to put the 2litre container full of water in it and see how much will not fit.

J.L.Woods

7th March 2010